

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 22, 2009. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hewson (4,253,649).

As set forth herein, Applicant has amended independent claim 28 to include the limitations of allowable claim 31. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 28 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same. Additionally, claims 29 and 30 depend from claim 28, and these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28.


Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claim 31 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicant has amended claim 28 to include the limitations of claim 31. Therefore, Applicant believes that claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants